AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1.   (Currently Amended) A method for providing an extensible educational system having educational content, the method comprising the steps of:

        providing a user interface;

        installing on a server a file compatible with a known application program interface (API), wherein the installed file utilizes the known API to modify the user interface for at least one user of the system;

        invoking an enhanced system functionality by using the modified user interface, the enhanced system functionality providing an additional ability to edit the educational content;

        specifying in the file one or more roles of a user that can utilize the enhanced system functionality;

        determining if the user has rights to utilize the enhanced system functionality based on the role of the user; and

        if the user has rights to utilize the enhanced system functionality based on the role of the user, then granting access to the user to ~~utilize the enhanced system functionality~~ use the additional ability provided by the enhanced system functionality to edit the educational content.

2.   (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of storing the one or more roles into a system data repository.

3.   (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the enhanced

system functionality is provided by at least one of a hyperlink and an icon.

4.   (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the one or

more roles comprise at least one of: user administrator, course administrator, system support,

observer, support, portal administrator, system administrator, instructor, student and teacher's

assistant.

5.   (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the

step of denying access to the enhanced system functionality if the user does not have access

rights.

6.   (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the file is

installed on the server by using a Java archive file.

7.   (Currently Amended) An extensible educational system having educational

content comprising:

a user interface stored in a computer-readable memory configured to store a user

interface;

a plug-in manager configured to add new functionality to the extensible education

system by modifying the user interface, the new functionality providing an additional

ability to edit the educational content; and

an authentication user interface configured to verify a role of a user in the

extensible educational system, and grant or deny a user access, to the new functionality

based on the role of the user in the extensible educational system, to use the additional

ability provided by the new functionality to edit the educational content, wherein the role

of a user comprises at least one of: user administrator, course administrator, system

support, observer, support, portal administrator, system administrator, instructor, student and teacher's assistant.

8.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 7, wherein the plug-in manager and the authentication user interface are invoked using the user interface.

9.   (Currently Amended) A method for providing an extensible educational system having educational content, the method comprising:

> displaying a user interface;

> invoking a plug-in manager configured to add new functionality to the extensible education system by modifying the user interface, the new functionality providing an additional ability to edit the educational content; and

> invoking an authentication user interface configured to verify a role of a user in the extensible educational system, and grant or deny a user access, to the new functionality based on the role of the user in the extensible educational system, to use the additional ability provided by the new functionality to edit the educational content.

10.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the role of a user comprises at least one of: user administrator, course administrator, system support, observer, support, portal administrator, system administrator, instructor, student and teacher's assistant.

11.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the plug-in manager and the authentication user interface are invoked using the user interface.

12.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the user interface is displayed by installing one or more files on a server.

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13.   (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium, which when executed on a computer performs a method for providing an extensible educational system <u>having educational content</u>, the method comprising:

displaying a user interface;

invoking a plug-in manager configured to add new functionality to the extensible education system by modifying the user interface<u>, the new functionality providing an additional ability to edit the educational content</u>; and

invoking an authentication user interface configured to verify a role of a user in the extensible educational system, and grant or deny a user access<u>,</u> ~~to the new functionality~~ based on the role of the user in the extensible educational system<u>,</u> <u>to use the additional ability provided by the new functionality to edit the educational content</u>.

14.   (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 13, wherein the role of a user comprises at least one of: user administrator, course administrator, system support, observer, support, portal administrator, system administrator, instructor, student and teacher's assistant.

15.   (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 13, wherein the plug-in manager and the authentication user interface are invoked using the user interface.

16.   (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 13, wherein the user interface is displayed by installing one or more files on a server.